GUSTAF AND LOUISE JACOBSON JOHNSON

Gustaf Johnson was born July 23, 1821, in the county of Wester Gotland, Sweden, the third child of a family of five. His father died when he was very young. He was apprenticed to learn the shoemaking trade and went from village to village making boots and shoes. He became very proficient. He received his education at night schools. At 21 he was employed at a regular shoe shop in Ulricehamn, where he soon received a certificate of master mechanic. At 24 he established a shop of his own, having six to eight workmen employed at one time.

In 1845 he married Louise Jacobsen. Louise was born March 25, 1815, in Ulricehamn. Her father was a mason by trade. He was killed in an accident while finishing a house when a ladder broke, causing him to fall headfirst onto a rock. He was 32 years old and left a wife and two children, seven and five years old, respectively. His wife took to spinning and weaving for a livelihood. She married her former husband's brother, who also died in a few years. Louise baked all kinds of breadstuffs and sold to a bakery to help out.

Louise heard the LDS gospel first while strolling in the park. Her mother and Louise and her family all joined the Church. Their relatives were very bitter about it and their friends shunned them, so they decided it was best to sell their belongings at a loss and go to America. They left in April, 1862. Their daughter Sophia was 13 years old and Eda an infant seven months old when they came in a sailing vessel. Louise and Eda were very ill during the crossing. After their arrival they went to Florence, Nebraska, and waited for the wagon trains to arrive from Salt Lake to take them to Zion.

Eda and her mother rode most of the way because they were ill, but her father and sister Sophia walked the entire distance. After a five-month journey they arrived in Salt Lake and were among the first to live in a tent on the old square where the City and County Building now stands. Here "Uncle" Nymphus Murdock found them and took them to his home, where they were treated as members of the family during the winter of 1862-63. Gustaf made shoes for the family and Louise spun and wove. Sophia learned to speak English, so could translate to her family what was being said.

At that time, Joseph S. Murdock, Nymphus' brother, was acting bishop in Heber Valley, so he persuaded the Johnsons to move to Heber in the spring of 1863, where a shoemaker was badly needed. He became associated with John Muir and others in establishing a cooperative tannery and shoe shop, where shoes for the community were manufactured until mercantile stores were established where shoes could be purchased cheaper. Even then many people were willing to pay the higher prices for handmade shoes and boots.

Louise worked hard, too, in making a living for the family. She carded, spun and

wove for the George W. Clyde family and others, receiving food supplies for her work. She received three sheep this way to get a start of a few head which John M. Murdock managed in the co-op herd.

When Abram Hatch was made president of Wasatch Stake in 1877, Gustaf was ordained to act as a high councilman, a position he held until President Hatch was released, and then he was set apart by Apostle Francis Lyman to act as bishop of Scandinavians. Many persons from Sweden and Denmark had moved into the valley. He was to look after their wants and amusements and hold Swedish gospel meetings every Sunday. By now he could speak English quite well.

Margaret Muir was president of Relief Society and she gave Gustaf permission to hold these meetings and entertainments in their meeting house, which had two rooms, one upstairs and one down. Louise was treasurer of the East Ward Relief Society at this time. She did all the janitor work with the help of some young people when they cleaned the room for dances. Eda said: "My parents were great dancers in their native land, so they had not been here long before Henry Walker started a dancing school, which they attended and learned all the English dances."

Father had the first Christmas tree in Heber. I think Nels Anderson brought the tree down from the canyon and put it in the Relief Society hall. I went to Joseph Hatch, who was the head clerk in Hatch's store, and asked him if he could get me some colored paper for the tree. He also gave me some stick candy to put on the tree. I then went to President Hatch, as I felt at home there, and he gave me some nice red apples from his farm at Lehi. Mother and I made all the candles for the tree. Some of my girl friends and I made paper baskets and other ornaments until late at night, which the men and boys put on the tree. After Christmas all these decorations were stored away for another year and the candy and apples were given to the children.

Gustaf was one of the men who stood guard during the Black Hawk War under Captain Thomas Todd. He died on December 14, 1910. Louise died on December 25, 1907.

GUSTAVUS JOHNSON
Born July 23, 1821, Gathered, Sweden. Came to Utah Oct. 1, 1862, Joseph Horne Company.

JOHNSON, GUSTAVE (son of John and Ann Maria Snygg of Sweden). Born July 23, 1821, Gathered, Sweden. Came to Utah Oct. 1, 1862, Joseph Horne company.

Married Louise Erickson March 25, 1845, in Sweden (daughter of Jacob and Johana Erickson of Sweden). She was born March 25, 1815. Their children: Hannah Sophia b. April 9, 1849, m. J. J. Cummings; Eda b. Sept. 7, 1861, m. Andrew Johnson.